

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 03400 050832Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 050750Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3640

S E C R E T ATHENS 3400

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO IN ETHIOPIA

REF: ASMARA 0426

1. CLYDE WILSON, ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF TENNECO GAVE THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO CONSUL GENERAL.

2. TENNECO CHAIRMAN, FREEMAN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A GRADUAL PULL OUT OF ALL TENNECO PERSONNEL IN ETHIOPIA AND PERMANENTLY SHUTTING DOWN OPERATIONS. THE KIDNAPPING OF THREE TENNECO EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS OTHERS BY ELF ONLY ONE FACTOR IN HIS THINKING. TWO TENNECO WORK PARTIES HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY SOMALI TROOPS IN OGADEN AND FORCED TO MOVE WHILE ETHIOPIAN TROOPS UNABLE TO HELP. ERITRIAN SITUATION APPEARS NEAR EXPLODING POINT AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF NOT ENCOURAGING WITH IMMINENT REMOVAL OF EMPEROR FROM SCENE. FREEMAN DOES NOT THINK IT RIGHT TO EXPOSE HIS EMPLOYEES TO DANGEROUS SITUATION OVER WHICH CONTROL IS LACKING AND FUTURE OUTLOOK SO BLEAK.

3. FREEMAN ALSO DISGUSTED WITH ROLE OF IEG OVER THE TENNECO SEVEN. MESSAGES FROM THE ELF TO TENNECO HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED AND SOME, HE HAS HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES, WERE SUPPRESSED.

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4. NATURALLY ANY SUCH MAJOR DECISION WOULD REQUIRE

APPROVAL OF TENNECO BOARD AND PARTNERS IN ETHIOPIAN
VENTURE.

5. WILSON SUGGESTS THAT IF WASHINGTON SEES ETHIOPIAN
SITUATION AS BRIGHTER THAN FREEMAN NOW CONSIDERS IT,
ADVISABLE THAT SITUATION BE DISCUSSED WITH ROBERT MILLER,
TENNECO VICE PRESIDENT AND WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE.

6. DEPT MAY WISH PASS ABOVE TO ADDIS ABABA.
TASCA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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